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Mr. Rolland A. Schmitten
Director, Office of Habitat Conservation
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
F/HC
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Office of
Habitat Conservation

Dear Mr. Schmitten,

Please consider my comments, as I am writing this letter to address Fed. Reg. 32991. As humans, we are responsible for protecting all ocean life and habitat. Bottom trawling is horribly destructive to the ocean floor. Trawlers tear through and destroy fragile habitat that is needed for fish nurseries. Our coral and sponge habitat is being ravaged by bottom trawlers, as the trawlers are dragged over the ocean bottom. This destructive method of fishing should be banned in order to preserve our bountiful deep sea environment and all of the creatures that live within it. Please help ban bottom trawling as a means of preserving, and protecting our valuable and irreplaceable oceans. There are after all, fishing methods that are by far more efficient and less destructive. Our oceans are some of the last frontiers that haven't been devastated by human life, please help to save and protect them.

Sincerely,



Kelli Cool

Cc: Oceana